infrastructure in their respective States. Government of Tamil Nadu are contributing 2/3rd of the cost of the Mass Rapid Transit System—Phase-II being developed between Thirumailai and Vellachery. They are also sharing 50% of the cost of Gauge Conversion of Chennai beach-Tambram-Chengalpattu MG Suburban system. Government of Maharashtra through its subsidiary CIDCO is sharing 2/3rd of the cost of doubling of Belapur-Panvel line and construction of Thane-Turbhe-Nerul-Vashi and Seawood-Uran electrified double lines. Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) has been formed with equity participation by the State Government of Maharashtra and Indian Railways. Government of Maharashtra will share 50% of the cost of the projects which are being undertaken by MRVC.

Sole selling right of books, magazines at Railway Stations

4389. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the sole selling right clause has been provided in all the bookstall agreements as per the letters No. 461-TG.III/58/9 dated 18th August, 1960 and 1st November, 1960 ;

(b) whether the said sole selling right clause has been withdrawn from all the current bookstall agreements as per letter No. 75/TG.III/461/19 dated 2nd January, 1976 to avoid building of monopoly;

(c) whether the said sole selling right clause has also been withdrawn altogether from the agreement of M/s. A.H. Wheeler and Co.; and

(d) if not, what are the detailed reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, sir.

(d) Previously, M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co. had exclusive right for running bookstalls over entire railway or over large portions of railway. From 1-9-1960 these exclusive rights were reduced to only sole rights at stations,

where they were already holding bookstalls. The clause was further modified in 1975 & 1976 under which railway can allot bookstalls to any other eligible categories at platforms constructed after 1-1-1976 at stations where M/s. Wheelers have sole selling rights.

Automatic renewal clause in bookstall agreements

4390. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the automatic renewal clause was inserted in all the bookstall agreements as per letter No. 61-TG. III/461 dated 7th December, 1961 ;

(b) whether the said automatic renewal clause was withdrawn from all the bookstall agreements, in consultations with the Ministry of Law as per the letter No. 66-TG II/461 dated 4th February, 1967; and

(c) if so, what are the details regarding reasons for not renewing all the bookstall agreements for a period of nine years as in case of M/s. A. H. Wheeler and Co. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The renewal of bookstall agreement for a period of 9 years w.e.f. 1-1-1967 was granted to M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co. And M/s. Higginbothams Ltd., in view of their past background. In case of other bookstalls, licence is renewed after every five years, which is in tune with other catering/vending licences of Indian Railways.

New railway lines in Madhaya Pradesh

4391. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have plans to lay new rail lines in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the facilities of railway stations in Madhya Pradesh ?